Oklahoma Chess Monthly

FEBRUARY 2018

Chess News and Chess History for Oklahoma

Charlie Snap

In This Issue:

- OU at the Pan-Am Collegiate
- Charlie Snap
- Book Review by IM Donaldson
- Plus News Bites, Game of the Month, Puzzles, Top 25 List, Tournament Reports, and more.

The OU Report — Competing at the 2017 Pan-American Intercollegiate Chess Championships

By Martin Carlson

The 2017 Pan-American Intercollegiate Chess Championships took place in frigid Columbus, OH from Dec. 27-30, 2017, and OU sent a competitive team for the second year in a row. Kelly Bloomfield and the Ohio State University Chess Club hosted this grand event in the Columbus Convention Center, adjacent to the Hyatt Regency hotel where the players were lodged.

58 teams (245 total players) from across North America competed. Among the players were 15 GM's, 29 IM's, and numerous other titled players. There were familiar teams in the event, including Webster University, Texas Tech, St. Louis University, UT-Rio Grande Valley, UT-Dallas, UMBC, and others. (The first four schools in this list made the Final Four, which will be held in March to determine the champion of college chess.) There were also some other notable schools, like first-time competitor Alaska Pacific University, the

"Oklahoma's Official Chess Bulletin Covering Oklahoma Chess on a Regular Schedule Since 1982"

http://ocfchess.org

Oklahoma Chess Foundation

Register Online for Free

Editor: Tom Braunlich

Asst. Ed. Rebecca Rutledge

Published the 1st of each month.

Send story submissions and tournament reports, etc., by the 15th of the previous month to mailto:tom.braunlich@cox.net

©2018 All rights reserved.

University of Toronto (a frequent winner in the past, which sent two teams), Tecnológico Nacional de México from Tijuana (which also sent two teams), and Northwest University in Kirkland, WA (which included none other than Phiona Mutesi, the woman featured in the recent book and film *Queen of Katwe)*. It was quite a diverse field of players eager to play some exciting chess.

The tournament was a 6-round Team Swiss event comprised of four-person teams playing matches of G/90+30s, under FIDE rules.

OU's Team

The University of Oklahoma's team was Matt Dalthorp (2051 rating), Kyle Twitchell (1812), Jeremiah Buenger (1778), and Martin Carlson (1673). Matt graduated in December, so this was his final trip to the Pan-Am with OU. Hopefully, rest of us will be able to compete at next year's event in San Francisco.

We all arrived at different times on Dec. 26 since we were flying in from different parts of the country after going home for Christmas (Martin from Oklahoma, Matt from Oregon, Jeremiah from Wisconsin, Kyle from Arizona). The playing hall in the Columbus Convention Center was very spacious. Many who had been to previous Pan-Ams said that it was by far the nicest facility they had played in, with lots of room. There was a really tasty, albeit expensive, restaurant in the hotel. If we were willing to brave the cold, there were many restaurants within walking distance. This stands in stark contrast to last year, when there were only two choices of restaurants. This made our experience very pleasant.

Security Was Tight

No cell phones or electronic devices were allowed in the playing hall; this applied to everyone, players and spectators alike. Anyone caught with one would automatically forfeit (if a player) or be banned from the playing hall (if a spectator) with possible consequences against the team with which

"The Queen of Katwe," Phiona Mutesi (featured in the recent movie) was one of the celebrity players present, on the Northwest Univ. team from Washington.

he/she was affiliated. Also, no one was allowed to talk about games outside the playing hall – not even completed games. Arbiters monitored the hallway to enforce this. In addition, the top four team boards (four individual boards = 1 team board) were separated from the rest of the playing hall by a barrier, and only players and coaches with a proper nametag could approach the boards. While this annoyed some players, many of the top players liked that potentially hundreds of people were no longer able to crowd around their board during a critical point in the game. To allow for spectators to see the action on the top boards, Mr. Bloomfield used DGT boards on the top boards, broadcasting the moves to a projector in a nearby skittles room.

Overall, Mr. Bloomfield, the Ohio State Chess Club, and the USCF did a fantastic job hosting this event, and I hope they get to host it again in the future.

On to the games!

Round 1:

University of Chicago (2335.8) – OU (1828.5):

1	Kevin Wang (2450)	0	Matt Dalthorp (2051)
0	Kyle Twitchell (1812)	1	Mauro Ampie (2414)
1	Steve Cooklev (2230)	0	Jeremiah Buenger (1778)
½	Martin Carlson (1673)	½	Hibiki Sakai (2249)

Result: Chicago wins 3½ - ½

Since our average rating was 1828.5, we were in the bottom half of the pairings. Predictably, we got paired with a beast to start off. The

Continued on Page 4

Charlie Snap 1948-2018

Veteran player Charlie Snap passed away on Tuesday, January 23, 2018, at his home in Skiatook.

A retired veteran of the Tulsa Police Department, and of the U.S. Army, chess had played a large role in his life. He wrote an intriguing article for us published in the December 2016 issue of the OCM discussing how he used chess in his police work.

As a youngster growing up in the '60s he got into chess with his good friend Victor McBee, and they made quite a pair. Both had witty sense of humor. Charlie once told me, "Victor was a very interesting character, and we shared a lot of chess moments and road trips back in the late 60's. I remember going to Springfield, Mo. back in the early 70's. Victor came in second, and I won Class D. We both won some money. There was a lot of talk about, 'who were those guys from Tulsa?' and, 'that McBee guy is some kind of master.' I told one of these players that Victor studies eight hours a day on chess. That he was dedicated in becoming the strongest player in Oklahoma. His motivation was his wife left him for a higher rated player from Arkansas. Of course this was totally not true, it seemed appropriate at the time for these curious chess players from Missouri. Never let the truth interfere with a good lie, when it comes to a story."

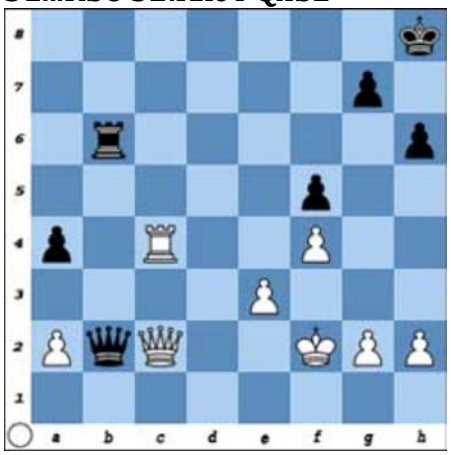
"Snapper" (his nickname) was a solid Class B player for most of his career, and in recent years slipped to Class C; but still took an occasional scalp from much higher-rated players, such as his win over Steve Wharry also published in the December 2016 OCM issue. For the last few years his tournament play was limited due to a debilitating lung condition which required him to be on oxygen full time. At first he would go to tournaments and play just two games a day, due to diminished stamina; then he could only do one game a day. His last tournament was the Steve Wharry one-game-a-month Ladder Tournament of 2016 that was ideal for him, but still a strain. His love of the game remained evident to the end.

As an officer, Charlie was popular and well loved. One of his famous arrests was of rock star Eric Clapton, whom he arrested in 1977 at the Tulsa International Airport for public intoxication. He was full of stories of his wide experiences in the police department and the army. He also had a large family, including many grandchildren, of whom he was very proud.

A Memorial Service has just been announced: "Please join us on Saturday, February 10, 2018, at 11:00 a.m. at the FOP Lodge, located at 12512 E. 21st St., Tulsa, OK 74129, to remember Charles Michael Snap."

first three boards ended quietly, but I was able to salvage a half-point against a master to help prevent the shutout.

Carlson, Martin (1673)
Sakai, Hibiki (2249) [D35]
2017 Pan-Am Intercollegiate Chess Champ (1), 27.12.2017
[Notes by Carlson]
1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 I decided to play the London because, being a graduate student, it's hard to keep up with the opening theory after 2.c4. Even though London theory is the new frontier in queen pawn openings, I thought my opponents may not be keeping up either. **2...Nf6 3.e3 c6** Black doesn't play ambitiously in the opening. More frequently seen is something like [3...c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nd2 Qb6 6.Qb3 c4 7.Qc2 Here, White benefits from delaying Ngf3 as Black doesn't have Bf5, a common move deflecting the White queen from the defense of b2, or at least sending her to the less appealing c1 square. 7...Nh5 8.Bg5 h6 9.Bh4 g5 10.Be2! with interesting play.] **4.c4 e6 5.Nc3 Bd6 6.Bg3 0-0 7.Nf3 Ne4?!** I didn't care for this move, as it allows White to gain access to the c4 square and control some important dark squares in the center. **8.Nxe4 dxe4 9.Nd2 f5 10.c5 Bc7 11.Bxc7?!** [11.Nc4 I think this is simply a better move than what I played. Why release the tension? Plus, my knight wants to go there anyway, and it's not yet clear where my bishop will want to go.] **11...Qxc7 12.Bc4 Kh8 13.f4** To prevent ...e5. **13...a5 14.Bb3** This is why my knight should have gone to c4 earlier. I've spent extra time moving my bishop to a square where it will be chased. **14...b6 15.cxb6 Qxb6 16.Nc4 Qa7 17.Ne5 a4 18.Bc4 Nd7** A very slick move which equalizes. **19.Nxd7** [19.Bxe6?? Nxe5 20.Bxc8 Nd3+; 19.Nxc6?? Qb6] **19...Bxd7= 20.Rc1 c5 21.d5?!** As often happens with me, when I realize I've lost the thread, I tend to over press and make things worse. I thought this would close the a7-g1 diagonal, relieving pressure on the e3 pawn. However, all it does is open the d-file for Black's rooks. **21...exd5** [21...Rad8 is more accurate in my opinion.] **22.Bxd5 Rad8** At this point, both of us are under five minutes on the clock. But, this was another reason I chose the London. I knew that as long as I didn't grossly blunder in the opening, I could get to an endgame where anything could happen in the time struggle, and oh, did things happen! **23.Qc2 Bb5 24.Bc4 Qb6 25.Bxb5** [25.0-0 Why not?!] **25...Qxb5 26.Kf2 Rf6?!** [26...Rd3! and Black can give me headaches. Now, I can relieve some of the pressure.] **27.Rhd1 Rd3? 28.Rxd3?** [28.Qxc5 and I have huge winning chances!] **28...exd3 29.Rd1 c4?? 30.Rxd3** I didn't miss it again. Now I have great chances for the full point! **30...h6 31.Rc3?!** But this is the wrong way to do it. Now, Black is able to simplify down to a drawn endgame. **31...Rb6 32.Rxc4 Qxb2**



33.Rc8+? The final step in the wrong direction. Now it's drawn. (33. Kf3 wins) **33...Kh7 34.Qxb2 Rxb2+ 35.Kf3 Rxa2 36.Ra8 Kg6 37.Ra5 Kf6 38.Ra6+ Ke7 39.h3 a3 40.g4 fxg4+ 41.hxg4 Ra1 42.f5 a2 43.Kg2 Re1 44.Rxa2 Rxe3 45.Ra6 Rd3 46.Rg6 Kf7 47.Ra6 Rb3 48.Rc6 Ke7 ½ - ½**

Round 2:

OU (1828.5) – Alaska Pacific (962.0)

1	Matt Dalthorp (2051)	0	Jonathon Singler (1680)
0	Carson Kent (760)	1	Kyle Twitchell (1812)
1	Jeremiah Buenger (1778)	0	Emily Smith (446)
0F		1F	Martin Carlson (1673)

Result: OU wins 4-0

It was Alaska Pacific's first trip to the Pan-Am,

and their average rating was low. They had only three players, which gave me an automatic win on board 4. However, they did make a splash with their outlandish outfits, which can be seen in the USCF's report on the event. Once the games began, however, little resistance was met. Kyle and Jeremiah scored effortless wins, while Matt only needed a little precision to best his opponent.

Round 3:

Washington Univ. (2095.0) – OU (1828.5)

1	Sarah Chiang (2232)	0	Matt Dalthorp (2051)
1	Kyle Twitchell (1812)	0	Nicholas Desmarais (2203)
0	Connor Keuchel (1987)	1	Jeremiah Buenger (1778)
0	Martin Carlson (1673)	1	Margaret Hua (1958)

Result: Draw 2-2

A great result for us against a much higher-rated team!

I blundered an exchange early and went down without much of a fight. Matt struggled in his game on Board 1 against one of the top young women players in the country, eventually faltering. However, Kyle scored a huge win over an old nemesis that he had played many times in the past, but never defeated, while Jeremiah picked off a near-expert to help us level the match.

For the Twitchell-Desmarais game see "Game of the Month" this issue, annotated by Tom Braunlich.

Round 4:

OU (1828.5) – UT-Dallas D (2241.3)

0	Matt Dalthorp (2051)	1	Sungho Yim (2384)
1	Mariam Daniela (2284)	0	Kyle Twitchell (1812)
0	Jeremiah Buenger (1778)	1	John Veech (2194)
1	Duy Minh Nguyen (2103)	0	Martin Carlson (1673)

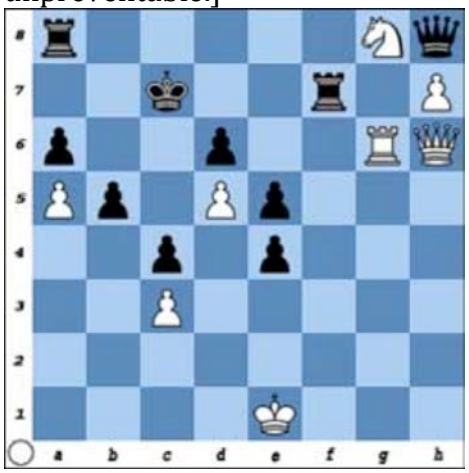
Result: UT-Dallas D wins 4-0

After scoring a huge upset draw the night before, we were confident going into this match. However, reality slapped us in the face — hard. My game ended first when I played a terrible weakening move in a French, and then walked into a mate three moves later. Jeremiah was lost out of the opening. Kyle got a massive advantage on the clock (something like 25 minutes versus the increment) against his opponent in a slightly better position, but his strong opponent in time pressure turned the tide. Matt had the best chances to avoid the shutout, but he came up short in a great struggle:

Dalthorp, Matt (2051)
Yim, Sungho (2384) [C95]
Pan American Championships 2017 (4), 29.12.2017
[Notes by Dalthorp]
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 Nb8 And we have a Breyer Variation. The knight move superficially looks odd but is actually quite logical; the c-pawn is freed up to move, the long diagonal is cleared for the light-squares bishop, and the knight can easily reroute via d7 to either an aggressive c5 square or a defensive f8 one. **10.d4 Nbd7 11.Nbd2 Bb7 12.Bc2 Re8 13.Nf1 Bf8 14.Ng3 g6** A common theoretic al position (or so my opening book tells me). White intends to start cramming pieces into the kingside while Black plans c5, pressuring the center and preparing a possible c4ñadvance (in the case of d5), opening a beautiful outpost on c5 for a knight. **15.a4 c5 16.d5** Very committal. White announces his intentions to eliminate all central tension, focusing all energies on the kingside attack. If the attack fails then Black's logical, flowing queenside play should win the day. **16...c4 17.Be3** Nominally controlling c5, while also planning Qd2 and Bh6, eliminating Black's defensive dark-squares bishop. **17...Qc7 18.a5**

Again, very committal. White controls the b6 square, limiting Black's immediate options, though it comes at the cost of a total queenside calcifiation. Given enough time Black will win easily. White's task then becomes one of making sure Black has no time. **18...Nc5 19.Qd2 Bc8** The bishop has fulfilled its usefulness on the long diagonal. **20.Bh6 Nfd7 21.Bxf8 Nxf8 22.Nh4** Those weakened dark squares begin to look juicy. **22...Qe7 23.Qh6** Ideas of Nh5 and Nf5 begin to appear. **23...Nfd7 24.Nf3 Qf6 25.h4** Piece play has temporarily stalled. Time to throw some pawns. **25...Qg7 26.Qd2 h5** This is the first critical moment. White has the choice between playing simply and hoping Black's queenside play comes to naught, or continuing operations on the kingside at great risk. **27.Kf1** I choose the attacking option. My basic plan is to play Ke2, shift a rook (or two) to the kingside, push the g-pawn, and see what opens up. **27...Nb7 28.Ke2 Ndc5 29.Rg1 Bd7 30.Nf1** White's play is totally unsound, but the attack is beginning to take shape. **30...Na4 31.Ne3** Wasting time protecting a petty pawn? Never! **31...Nxb2 32.g4** Hyperaggressive **32...hxg4 33.Nxg4 Nc5 34.h5 Nbd3 35.h6** [Black may be hoping for something along the lines of 35.hxg6 when 35...Nf4+ 36.Kd1 fxg6 is rock solid. But I had a concrete plan in mind.] **35...Qh8 36.h7+** Capturing the pawn either way drops the queen (either to Nf6+ or Rh1+) **36...Kf8 37.Qh6+ Ke7** [37...Qg7?? 38.h8Q+ Ke7 39.Qg5+ f6 40.Qxf6+ Qxf6 41.Qxf6#]

38.Qh4+ f6 39.Nh6 Rf8 [39...Qxh7 40.Nf5+] **40.Bxd3 Nxd3 41.Kd2 Nf4** The knight helps hold everything together. If White crashes through on g6, the attack is at least somewhat justified and everything becomes unclear. **42.Ng8+ Kd8 43.Rg3** Planning to double on the g-file and sac on g6. **43...Rf7 44.Rh1** [44.Nh6 Re7 *(44...Rxh7 45.Nf7+ Ke7 46.Nxh8 Rhxh8* and the White queen is trapped! The position is unbalanced but probably near equal*.)*] **44...Kc7 45.Ng1** White begins a slow but straightforward plan of trading off the f4ñknight, doubling on the g-file, and breaking through. **45...f5 46.Ne2 fxe4 47.Nxf4 Rxf4** [47...exf4! 48.Rxg6 e3+ 49.fxe3 fxe3+ 50.Ke2 Qxc3 when suddenly Black is on the attack. 51.h8Q Qd2#] **48.Qh6 Be8** [48...Rxg8 49.hxg8Q Qxg8 Black should be winning here. The three pawns and emerging initiative comfortably compensate for the exchange, and White is out of play.] **49.Rhg1** White continues with his plan, oblivious to a missed win. [49.Ne7! Rxf2+ 50.Kc1 Rf6 51.Nxg6 Rxg6 52.Rxg6 Bxg6 53.Qxg6 The dust has cleared and suddenly Black is helpless to stop a simple plan like Qf7+, Rg1, and Rg8, winning.] **49...Rxf2+ 50.Ke1 Rf4?** [50...Rf7 51.Rxg6 Qxh7 52.Rxd6 Qxh6 53.Rxh6 White's activity still offers some compensation, but it'll still be a long fight to hold a draw.] **51.Rxg6 Bxg6 52.Rxg6 Rf7??** Qg7+ is threatened. [For example, 52...Rd8 53.Qg7+ Qxg7 54.Rxg7+ Kc8 55.h8Q; 52...Raf8! is the only move to hold for Black 53.Qg7+ Qxg7 54.Rxg7+ Kb8 55.h8Q Rf1+ and perpetual check is unpreventable.]



53.Rxd6?

[53.Nf6? Raf8 54.Rg8 Rxf6 55.Qg7+ Qxg7 56.Rxg7+ Kd8 57.Rg8 Rf1+ again allows Black a saving perpetual.;

53.Qe3!! Rerouting the queen via a back alley to

the queenside! White is winning. 53...Qxh7 54.Qb6+ Kc8 55.Qc6+ Kb8 56.Qxd6+ Kc8 57.Nh6 Rc7 58.Rg8+ Qxg8 59.Nxg8 and the passed d-pawn, supported by the queen and knight (which can still play against the tender Black king) should decide things.] **53...Qxh7 54.Rc6+ Kd8 55.Qd6+ Ke8 56.Nf6+** [56.Qxe5+ Kd8 57.Qd6+ Ke8 58.Nf6+ Rxf6 59.Qxf6 Qh1+ 60.Kd2 e3+ 61.Kxe3 Qe1+ 62.Kd4 Qg1+ 63.Ke5 Qe3+ 64.Kf5 Qh3+ 65.Kf4 Qh2+ 66.Ke4 Qc2+ 67.Kd4 Qd3+ 68.Kc5 Qe3+ 69.Kb4 Qe7+ 70.Qxe7+ Kxe7 71.Kc5 is a long computer line to a won endgame, but good luck finding all those moves in time pressure.] **56...Rxf6 57.Qxe5+ Qe7 58.Qxf6 Qxf6 59.Rxf6** Black is up a pawn but with an inactive king and rook and somewhat fragile pawns for White to target. **59...Rd8 60.Rxa6 Rxd5 61.Re6+** [61.Rb6 should hold the draw easily. 61...Kd7 62.a6 Kc7 63.a7 Rd8 64.Rxb5 Ra8 65.Rc5+ Kb6 66.Rxc4 Rxa7 67.Rxe4 With inaccurate play from Black, White can push for a while, but barring an absurd blunder, it should be a simple draw.] **61...Kd7 62.Rxe4??** Now Black wins a pawn and the connected passers will clean up. **62...Rd3 63.Re5** [63.Rd4+?? almost works but 63...Rxd4 64.cxd4 Kc6 65.Kd2 b4 and the king catches the a-pawn just in time to gobble both White pawns.] **63...Kc6 64.Re6+ Kd5 65.Rb6 Kc5 66.Rb8 Rxc3 67.Kd2 Ra3 68.Ra8 Ra2+ 69.Kc1 Kb4 70.a6 Kb3 71.Kb1 Rb2+ 72.Kc1 Ra2 73.Kb1 b4 74.a7 c3 0-1**

Round 5:

Miami Dade (1930.3) – OU (1828.5)

1	Fernando Larrua (2383)	0	Matt Dalthorp (2051)
½	Kyle Twitchell (1812)	½	Danilo Rivero (2051)
1	Paulo Castro (1756)	0	Jeremiah Buenger (1778)
1	Martin Carlson (1673)	0	Jose Fernandez (1567)

Result: Miami Dade wins 2½-1½

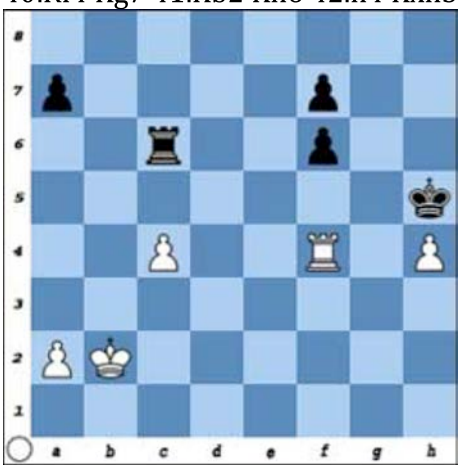
OU was paired up again. Jeremiah missed a simple tactic that lost a piece. Kyle made a draw, and I won a nice endgame illustrating the strength of the bishop pair versus two knights, although I missed a ridiculously simple win at one point.

Carlson, Martin (1673)
Fernandez, Jose (1563) [D06]
2017 Pan-Am Intercollegiate Chess Champ (5), 29.12.2017
[Notes by Carlson, Martin]
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 After failing to get an opening advantage in my round 3 game in the London, I decided to play 2.c4 and bank on my higher rating. **2...d5?** The Marshall is a garbage opening. White gets an easy game with extra space, while Black has no play. **3.cxd5 Nxd5 4.Nf3 Bg4 5.e4 Nb6 6.Be2 e6 7.0-0 Be7 8.Nc3 N8d7 9.Bf4 0-0 10.Rc1 Rc8 11.Nb5 c6 12.Nd6 Bxd6 13.Bxd6 Re8 14.Qd3 Bxf3 15.Qxf3** Now, thanks to my opponent's generosity, I have the bishop pair versus two knights. So, my plan was to get the major pieces off the board and use the long-range power of the bishops to grind him down. **15...e5 16.Rfd1 exd4 17.Rxd4 Qf6** Again, my opponent helps me out. **18.Qxf6 Nxf6 19.f3 h6 20.Rcd1± Nfd7 21.Kf2 Nf8 22.R4d2 Ne6 23.b3 Red8 24.Ke3 Nd7?? 25.Bc4??** [25.Be7 Game over. I was so locked into my plan that I missed this. But, my position is so much better that I was still able to convert.] **25...Nb6 26.Be2 26...c5** Now this pawn becomes a target, so here I decide to get the rooks off. **27.Bg3 Nd4 28.Be5 Ne6 29.Rxd8+ Rxd8 30.Rxd8+ Nxd8 31.a4 Nd7 32.Bd6 b6?** Now the queenside becomes fatally weak. **33.Bb5 Nb7 34.Bc7**

Nf8 35.Bb8 Ne6 36.Bxa7 Nd4 37.Bc4 Kf8 38.Bxb6 1-0

After my win, the match stood at 1.5-1.5, so everything hinged on Matt's game.

Larrua, Fernando (2383)
Dalthorp, Matt (2051) [B53]
Pan American Championships 2017 (5), 29.12.2017
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4 Nc6 5.Bb5 Bd7 6.Bxc6 Bxc6 7.Bg5 Nf6 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.Nc3 e6 10.0-0-0 Be7 11.Qd3 0-0 12.Nd4 a6 13.Rhe1 Kh8 14.f4 Qa5 15.g4 Rg8 16.Qe2 Rac8 17.Kb1 b5 [17...Bd7] 18.Nb3 Qb6 19.Nd5 Bxd5 20.exd5 e5 21.Nd4 Rc4 22.Nc6 Bf8 23.Rf1 Rxf4 24.Rxf4 exf4 25.Nd4 Qc5 26.Nf5 Bg7 27.Qe7 Rc8 28.c3 Qc7 29.Qxd6 Qxd6 30.Nxd6 Rc7 31.Nf5 Rd7 32.b3 h5 33.gxh5 Bf8 34.d6 f3 35.c4 bxc4 36.bxc4 Bxd6 37.Nxd6 f2 38.Rf1 Rxd6 39.Rxf2 Rc6 40.Rf4 Kg7 41.Kb2 Kh6 42.h4 Kxh5



43.Kc3 Kg6 44.Kd4 Rd6+ 45.Kc5 Rd2 46.a4 f5 47.Rd4 Rc2 48.Kd6 Rf2 49.c5 f4 50.c6 f3 51.c7 Rc2 52.Rf4 Rd2+ 53.Kc6 Rc2+ 54.Kb7 Rb2+ 55.Kxa6 Rc2 56.Kb7 Rb2+ 57.Ka8 Rc2 58.Kb8 Rb2+ 59.Kc8 f2 60.a5 f5 61.a6 Kf6 62.Kd8 Rd2+ 63.Ke8 Re2+ 64.Kf8 Re4 65.Rxf2 Rxh4 66.Rg2 Rc4 67.a7 **1-0**

Round 6:

OU (1828.5) – Texas Tech D (1733.0)

1	Matt Dalthorp (2051)	0	Richard Davisson (1876)
½	Christian T. Ammon (1888)	½	Kyle Twitchell (1812)
½	Jeremiah Buenger (1778)	½	David Barry (1690)
0	Pranjal Ghimire (1478)	1	Martin Carlson (1673)

Result: OU wins 3-1

Matt won a quick game by having a better understanding of the pawn structure, goading his opponent into playing a "typical" move that ended up being downright incorrect.

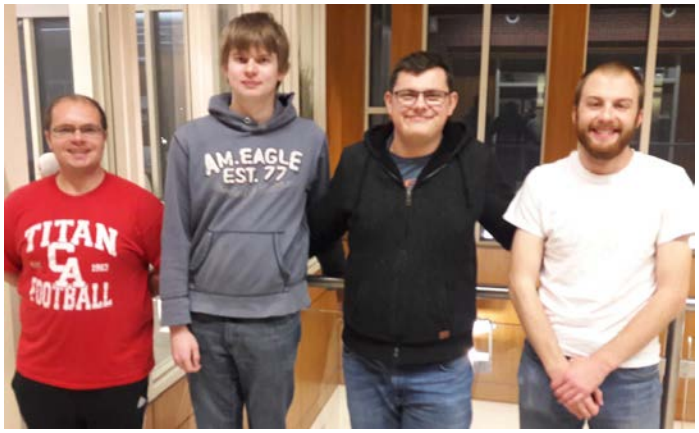
I won a sloppy game which ended up turning into a bishop versus knight endgame where my bishop reigned supreme, eventually leading to a blunder by my opponent which cost him a piece. Kyle accepted a draw in what he said was a worse position. Meanwhile, Jeremiah lost a pawn early but managed to scrape out a draw.

Dalthorp,Matt (2051)
Davisson,Richard (1876) [C60]
Pan American Championships 2017 (6), 30.12.2017
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 g6 4.0-0 Bg7 5.c3 d6 6.h3 Nge7 7.d4 Bd7 8.d5 Nb8 9.Bxd7+ Nxd7 10.c4 0-0 11.Nc3 f5 12.Ng5 Rf6 13.Ne6 Rxe6 14.dxe6 Nc5 15.Bg5 Nxe6 16.Bxe7 Qxe7 17.Qb3 Nc5 18.Qc2 Rf8 19.f3 fxe4 20.fxe4 Rf4 1-0

FINAL RESULT: 2½/6 *(Tied for 34-41st place)*

While we were slightly disappointed with our overall result, it was in line with our rating, and we had a great fun. For me personally, it was nice to take a short break from graduate mathematics and just play some chess with some great guys.

I'm already looking forward to next year's Pan-Am. Hopefully, in a few years, we can recruit some strong players to represent OU (someone named Advait, perhaps??).



OU Team: Carlson, Buenger, Twitchell, Dalthorp (Photo: M.Carlson)

Past College Chess in Oklahoma — OSU in 1980

by Tom Braunlich

Historically, organized college team chess in Oklahoma has been mostly non-existent, which is one reason why the OU team's participation and success at the Pan-Am Intercollegiate Team Tournament the last two years is remarkable.

Since neither OU nor OSU has an official chess program, acquiring enough strong players there at any one time to consider sending a team is rare. It also requires a good organizer. This has seldom been the case.

OSU Sends a Team in 1980

The only other time I know of that a team was sent from Oklahoma (and someone correct me if I'm wrong) was in 1980 — and it was quite a *strange* team. I can say that, as I was one of the players on it! The team consisted of:

1. Tom Braunlich (2360)
2. Stan Vaughan (2250)
3. Mehdi Mansouri (2200+ player from Iran)
4. John Acken (1950)

Acken — John Acken was the organizer of the student-run OSU chess club for many years and it was very active under him. We'd play on Wednesday nights in the student union, on the same floor as the square dancing club (and got to listen to a lot of polka-style music with do-se-does going on), and then we would adjourn for pizza at the Hideaway. John was also one of the best speed chess players I've ever seen – frequently beating me and other masters, but unfortunately he would play tournament games at about the same speed, often not using more than 10 minutes on his clock!

Braunlich — I was having my best chess year in 1980. I started the year at 2150 and reached my peak rating of 2365 late that year after winning the Jerry Spann Memorial, the Kansas Open, plus doing well at the World Open, and finishing second in the Southwest Open (losing only to GM Larry Christiansen).

Vaughan — Our second and third boards were highly unusual. One reason I played so much chess that year was due to Stan Vaughan, who was one of the most unusual chess characters ever to briefly live in Oklahoma. From South Carolina, he had gone to Clemson University. He came to Oklahoma and lived in Cushing for one year, with a rating around 2200. Unsatisfied with the chess scene here, he started holding small USCF events every Saturday at his house, and he took advantage of a loophole in the rules of the USCF Grand Prix to make these eligible for grand prix status. The design of the tournament was such that it was attractive to players of expert and above — and basically after the word got out all the strong players in the state were travelling to Cushing every Saturday to play each other in the time control of "30/30" (30 moves every 30 minutes, using analog clocks). Regulars there were me, Todd Lunna (2300, from New Jersey but going to OU), Bruce Baker (2300 also), and Vaughan himself, and many experts, as well as occasional visits from masters like Tom Amburn, David Babcock, and Rodney Malpert. There were about 25 of these events that year and all this practice helped my game a lot as I started doing very well in regular regional events too. Stan took some courses at OSU so that he could join our team. Later on Vaughan got himself banned from the USCF for irregularities with the tournament results he sent in. He was alleged to have submitted false reports to keep his rating up high. I don't know any details but he later moved to Las Vegas where he has tried to set up his own world chess federation, and I know he still lives there.

Mansouri — The fourth member of our team was a remarkable man and a pleasure to have known. Mehdi Mansouri was a graduate student in Geography from Iran going to OSU in 1979, the year the Shah of Iran was deposed, leaving Mansouri unable to return home. He had a wife with two kids and was in his late 30s. He was very mild-mannered, and intelligent.

Mansouri had been a young member of the Iranian chess team in 1962 that went to the

TOP 25

For February 2018

	Top 25 Active Oklahoma Player			
	Player	This Month	Change +/-	
1	Advait Patel	2602	-1	
2	Howard Zhong	2280	15	▲
3	Daniel Ng	2273	0	▼
4	Mark Hulsey	2221	0	
5	Tom Braunlich	2200	-9	
6	Tom Amburn	2200	0	
7	Sergey Galant	2188	0	
8	Joshua Alexander	2142	0	
9	Chibuzo C Ilonze	2135	0	
10	Anthony Paolercio	2112	6	
11	Chuck Johnson	2087	0	
12	John Cope	2084	0	
13	James Tyner	2074	0	
14	Adonis Turner	2073	26	▲
15	Logan Zachare	2072	25	▲
16	David Luscomb	2068	0	▼
17	Charles D Unruh	2062	0	▼
18	Tom Patton	2060	0	▼
19	Matt Dalthorp	2045	-2	▼
20	Michael Nugent	2039	-8	
21	Charles M Unruh	2039	0	
22	James Long	2036	-6	▲
23	Veronika Zilajeva	2031	-13	
24	Alan Islas	2024	0	
25	Neil Naputo Sr	1994	0	▲

Player of the Month

MATT DALTHORP

With Daniel Ng unable to play this year, Matt took over leadership of the OU team and did a great job at the Pan-Ams.

FIDE Chess Olympaid in Varna, Bulgaria. There he personally witnessed one of the most iconic games of the young Bobby Fischer - his only encounter with world champion Botvinnik. Fischer outplayed him and the game was adjourned with Bobby a pawn up in a complicated rook ending that appeared to be won. The Iranian team's hotel rooms were on the same floor as the Russian team. All the Russian players - Tal, Spassky, Geller, Keres, etc. (maybe a dozen top GMs in all) stayed up all night working together to try to find a way to hold a draw for Botvinnik. Mansouri witnessed them moving from room to room, tense with the knowledge the USSR's cold war image was on the line. Finally, early in the morning, he heard cheers, shouting, and celebrations coming from the Russian rooms… they had done it — they had found the study-like draw! When the game was resumed a few hours later, Botvinnik did indeed hold the draw, and Mansouri said Fischer was furious. This game is discussed in Fischer's great book, *My Sixty Memorable Games*.

Mansouri was a solid player who nowadays would have an FM or IM title. But by 1980 he had not played for many years in tournaments when we talked him into joining our chess team, and he officially was "unrated" for this event.

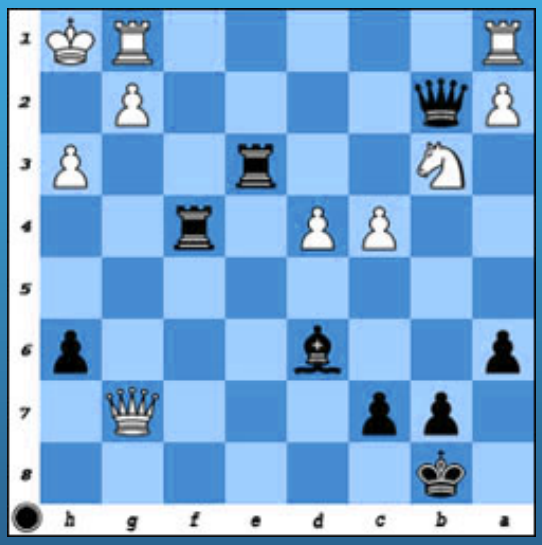
This four-man OSU team travelled together by car to Atlanta for the Pan-Am Intercollegiate Team championship that year. We paid our own way and went on the cheap. We were one of 52 teams and I think were rated something like 8th on the crosstable. However, we did not have a good event and lost or drew a couple matches with lower rated teams, I think eventually finishing about 20th.

I don't believe a copy of the crosstable exists. The tournament was won by the University of Toronto, which won three in a row. Nor did any of the games we played survive.

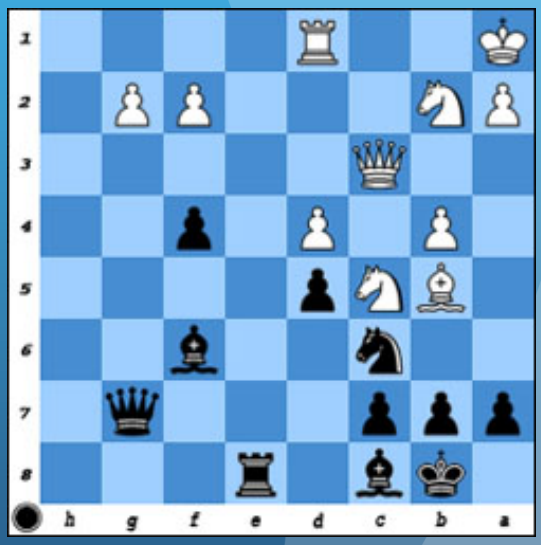
I remember on first board using the Archangelsk Variation of the Ruy Lopez as black a couple times against 2100s and grinding out long wins. This variation is pretty common now

PUZZLES

Answers Next Page



BLACK to move and win. (Easy)



Black to move and win. (Difficult)

but was rare at that time, and I used it fairly often to get players out of the book.

In one key match with Princeton I was paired with a new Russian immigrant named Sergey Kudrin, an IM who of course later became a strong GM professional in the U.S. It was a memorable failure for me, as I was rattling off moves of the latest theory against him in the Lasker-Pelikan variation of the Sicilian, which was my pet line in those days, when I accidentally inverted the move order around move 15 — and instantly lost a piece as a result. It was painful, and even though I got two pawns for it and struggled, he squeaked out a win in a long ending. I never made the mistake of moving fast in the opening again after that debacle.

The main highlight for our event was a beautiful win by Mehdi Mansouri. As black he sacrificed a rook to get two connected passed pawns on the queenside on the fifth rank. His 2100-rated opponent struggled to hold back these pawns, but they reached the sixth rank and paralyzed white's pieces. Then Mehdi skillfully forced them through to queen and win the game. It was a terrific performance and he was very pleased with it.

Quad College Team Chess Event 1980:

OSU, OU, University of Tulsa, and University of Arkansas

One other college team chess event of note was also held in 1980. John Acken organized a four-school team chess round-robin tournament in the Fall of that year between these four main universities of the region.

It was a rather strong event, as the players from Fayetteville were led by Paul Kuroda, a 2400+ senior master who is still the strongest player ever to come from Arkansas. I think they also had Bill Orton on their team. The OSU team was as described above, and OU had a strong team led by Todd Lunna. The 3-round event was held on a Saturday in Stillwater and was won by Arkansas.

Answers to the Puzzles

(1) Black mates on h2 using the power of the double-check: 1…Rxh3+ 2. gxh3, Qh2+!! 3. Kxh2, Rf2++ 4. Kh1, Rh2 mate.

(2) The solution is tricky and unusual. Black would like to capture on d4 with his bishop, but his knight on c6 is pinned — a bunch of captures on d4 will allow Bxe8 at the end, losing the rook. At this point, if you saw that far, you probably stopped this line and went exploring other ideas. But sometimes we give up on variations too early! The solution is 1… Bxd4! 2. Rxd4, Rh8!! This sly rook move is actually a double-threat white can't cope with. By moving the rook away black has unpinned his knight and now threatens to simply take on d4, winning. But the rook move also threats a check on the back rank at a time when white's rook is sitting pinned on d4 and can't defend! 3. Rd3, Rh1+ 4. Nd1, Rxd1+!

RRSO — Join Your Team Now!

Recruiting has begun to gather the "Most Fanatical Chess Players in Oklahoma and Texas" for the annual "Red River Shoot Out" coming this April.

This year players are required to notify their state team captain well in advance if they want to play. The deadline is April 1, but the sooner the better. Team Captains on April 2 will create pairings with similar-rated players on the opposing state teams.

The teams will play a two-game match on April 21, 2018, in Davis, Oklahoma. It is the 16th year in the annual team tournament.

Commit to play soon, because the Team Match section will fill up quickly. If you wait a Match slot probably won't be available. Those who don't make the roster can play in the side tournament that day. This new system maximizes the fun of the tournament by assuring the most possible evenly-matched pairings. Players will also get advance notice of their opponent and will have some time to prepare.

Oklahoma Team Captain is Joe Dean Veal. Email: culjoe2012@yahoo.com

Texas Chess Team Captain is Chris Wood. Email: chris@handsomeweb.com

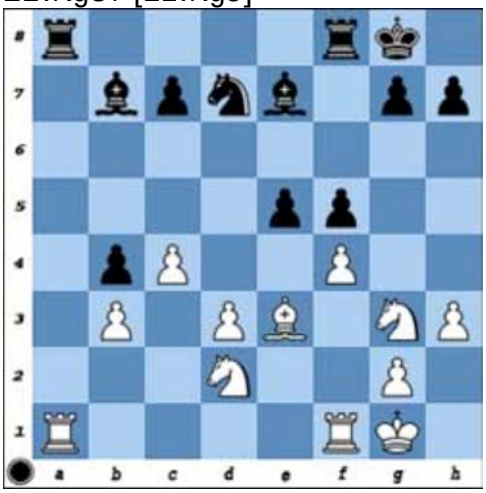
If you want to play for the glory of your state in this annual event, email your Team Captain:

1. Your Name.
2. Your US Chess ID.
3. Your Current Rating.
4. Your Membership Expiration Date (must be current through April 2018 to play.)
5. Your City.
6. Your Email Address and Your Phone number.
7. Your Birth Year (age may be a factor in the team pairing matchups).

RRSO Website: http://rrsochess.net/rrso_home.html#RRSO
OCF Website: http://ocfchess.org/ocf_tournaments.html#RRSO
TDs: Jim Hollingsworth and Jim Berry
GLHF! Remember to sign up early.

More games from the 2017 Holiday Open:

Fernandez, Joshua (1753)
Paolercio, Anthony (2106) [C57]
Holiday Open 2017 (3.4), 30.12.2017
[TB]
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Nd4!? 6.h3 [6.c3 The main line runs 6...b5 7.Bf1 Nxd5 8.cxd4 Qxg5 9.Bxb5+ Kd8 10.Qf3 with a complex game.] 6...b5 7.Bb3 a5 8.c3 Nxb3 9.Qxb3 Qxd5 10.Qxd5 Nxd5**µ** 11.d3 f6 12.Ne4 b4 [12...Bb7] 13.a3 Ba6 14.c4 Nb6 15.axb4 axb4 16.b3 Be7 17.Be3 Nd7 18.f4 0-0 19.0-0 Bb7 20.Nbd2 f5 21.Ng3? [21.Ng5]



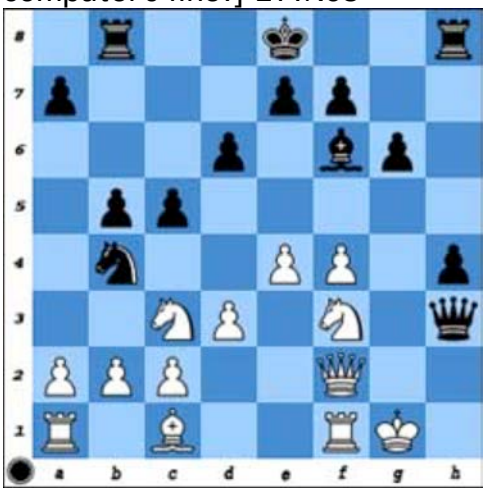
21...g5! 22.Ne2 gxf4 23.Bf2 Kf7 24.d4 Rg8 25.Rxa8 Bxa8 26.g3 fxg3 27.Bxg3 Bg5 28.Nf3 Bf6 [28...Bxf3 29.Rxf3 f4-+] 29.Nxe5+ Bxe5 30.dxe5 Be4 31.Kf2 c5 32.Ke3 Re8 33.Bf4 Nxe5 34.Ng3 Bg2 35.Ra1 Ng6+ 36.Kf2 Nxf4 37.Nxf5 Kf6 38.Nd6 Re6 39.Nb7 Bxb7 0-1

Koloen, Preston (362)
Coss, Gabriel (1435) [A00]
Holiday Open 2017 (3.10), 30.12.2017
[TB]
1.d3 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 d5 4.e4 d4 5.Ne2 f6 6.Ng3 Nce7 7.Be2 c5 8.c3 Be6 9.c4 a6 10.h4 b5 11.b3 Nc6 12.h5 bxc4 13.bxc4 Nge7 14.h6 gxh6

15.Rxh6!? Bxh6 16.Bxh6 Ng8? [16...Rg8 17.Nh4 Qd7 18.Bh5+ Kd8 is good for black.] 17.Bg7 Kf7 18.Bxh8 Nh6 19.Nh4 Qxh8 20.Bh5+ Ke7 21.Bg6 Bf7 22.Bxf7 Kxf7 23.Qh5+ Kg7 24.Nhf5+ Nxf5 25.Nxf5+ Kf8 26.Qh6+ [26.Rb1+-] 26...Kf7 27.Nd6+ Ke6 28.Nf5 Ne7 29.Rb1 Nxf5 30.exf5+ Kxf5 31.Rb6 Rg8 32.Qh5+ Rg5 33.Qf3+ Kg6 34.Qe4+ Kf7 This game was such a big upset that when I reported the results for rating the USCF computer asked me if it was a mistake. Young Preston played a nice game. 1-0

Zachare, Logan (2053)
Gehly, Stephen (1983) [B24]
Holiday Open 2017 (3.2), 30.12.2017
[TB]
1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 g6 3.g3 Bg7 4.Bg2 Nc6 5.f4 d6 6.h3 Bd7 7.Nf3 Rb8 8.0-0 b5 9.d3 Nf6? [9...b4 10.Ne2 Qb6!?] 10.Ne2?! [10.e5 Nh5 11.Qe1! is strong for white.] 10...Qc8 11.g4 h5 12.g5 Bxh3?! [This courageous sac of a piece for two pawns is interesting but it leaves black struggling to find compensation to equalize, whereas black can have a good position after the simple 12...Nh7 13.Kh2 Nf8 *(13...e5!? 14.f5! gxf5 15.exf5 Bxf5)*] 13.Bxh3 Qxh3 14.gxf6 Bxf6 If black could open a line on the kingside he would have compensation

for the piece, but as it is I think if white is careful he should soon be able to consolidate and win. My Fritz, however, thinks it is about equal. 15.Qe1 h4!? 16.Qf2 Nb4 [16...Qg4+ 17.Qg2 Qd7 with compensation is the computer's line.] 17.Nc3



17… g5? [This doesn't succeed in opening the file, whereas black could have had a draw with 17...Bd4 18.Nxd4 cxd4 19.Nd5 *(19.Qxd4 Qg3+ 20.Kh1 Qh3+=)* 19...Nxd5 20.exd5 Rh5 with some compensation for black obvious now.] 18.fxg5+- Rg8 19.a3 Nc6 20.Qg2 Qd7 21.Nd5 Bxg5 22.Nxg5 h3 23.Qg3 Nd4 24.Kh2 Ne2 25.Qf2 f6 26.Qxe2 fxg5 27.Qh5+ Kd8 28.Qf7 Qg4 29.Qxe7+ 1-0

Ironherron, Liko
Bufford, Adley [C50]
Holiday Open 2017, 30.12.2017
[TB]
1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nd4 4.Nxe5? [4.c3 Nxf3+ 5.Qxf3≤] 4...Qg5 5.Nxf7? This is an old trap that has caught many many people! 5...Qxg2 6.Rf1 Qxe4+ 7.Be2 Nf3# 0-1

Graber, Zach (1700)
Guel, Daniel (1714)
BRAZOS II Hillsboro TX (1.4) 07.10.17
[Notes by Daniel Guel]
NOTE: Daniel Guel published his analysis in Chess.com (https://www.chess.com/blog/ EOGuel/path-to-chess-prosperity- 4-10-7-2017-tournament-analysis).
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Qb6
Round 1 of the team match. We knew who our opponents were about three weeks in advance, so we had the opportunity to do opening prep before the tournament. Jason Howell (board 1 for our team as well as our local chess champion) had played Zach in a tournament a few months ago and got a good position playing the French, and was kind enough to show me the game. I took a look and he suggested a seeming unusual line in the French. But I decided to try it out and I was successful, though credit does go to Jason for suggesting this idea to me.
6.Bd3 Nh6!?
Jason Howell suggested this move, stating that this is a better practical try rather than taking the pawn immediately and defending. In his words, Black is not afraid of the doubled pawns, and even if White does not take the Knight, Black is happy with playing Nf5.
7.Bxh6 gxh6
I checked this opening with the computer, and it liked 7...Qxb2 though that is the type of move I personally hate.
8.Qc2
In Jason's game, Zachary played 8.b3? and Black got a very good position. cxd4 9.cxd4 Bb4+! 10.Nbd2 Nxd4! (I like 10...Bc3! better, though either move is fine.
8...cxd4 9.Bxh7 Rxh7 10.Qxh7 Qxb2 11.0-0 Qxa1 12.Qc2 Bd7 13.Nfd2
[White can't simply play a normal move to grab my Queen. 13.Nbd2 Qxc3]
13...d3!!
The star move. Without this recourse, Black may as well be losing. Where can White's Queen go while not letting my Queen loose?
14.Qa4 Qb2
So the game is virtually over now. My Queen can slide safely to b6, and White already has all kinds of problems. Plus, Black's Bishops are going to be way more effective than White's passive Knights!
15.Qf4 0-0-0 16.c4 Qxe5 17.Qxf7 Bd6 18.f4?
Probably a psychological error that upgraded my position.
18…Qe3+ 19.Kh1 Rf8 20.Qg7 Rxf4 21.Rxf4 Bxf4 22.Qf8+ Kc7 23.g3 Qe1+ 24.Kg2 Qe2+ 25.Kh1 Bxd2 26.Nxd2 Qxd2 27.c5 Qe1+ 28.Kg2 Qe5 Black resigned here.
0-1

Twitchell, Kyle (1812)
Desmarais, Nicholas (2203) [B04]
2017 Pan-Am Intercollegiate Chess Champ (3), 28.12.2017
[Braunlich]

Game of the Month - Oklahoma Chess Monthly, FEB 2018. Twitchell is from Arizona and here is paired with an opponent in Round 3 from Washington Univ (in St. Louis) whom he had played before back in his home state.

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.exd6 cxd6

Which way to recapture? It's my understanding that 4...exd6 is theoretically best, but if black is playing for a win he often chooses the recapture that avoids symmetrical pawns. However, this is dubious because the pawn structure now somewhat favors white. Why? Because he tends to get pressure down the e-file on the "backward" e-pawn, and if black advances pawns to try to remedy this those pawns often become weak. This is actually what happens in the game...

5.Bc4 Nb6 6.Bb3 g6 7.Nf3 Bg7 8.0-0 0-0 9.c3

Another favorable feature of this pawn structure is that white can blunt black's bishop like this.

9...Nc6 10.Re1 Bg4?!

I bet the master was at the end of his theoretical knowledge here and had to come up with a plan to deal with the pressure that will come on the e7ñpawn. He decides upon this move to exchange white's Nf3 followed by pushing his pawn e7-e5. This is very natural looking, and in fact is the most common move here, but it actually doesn't score well and is probably wrong. In the resulting position white gets the two bishops in an open setting, and, as said before, black's pawns are somewhat unwieldy.

See how the great Morozevich played this position instead: 10...Bf5 11.Bf4 Na5! Trading off white's good bishop... 12.Bc2 Bxc2 13.Qxc2 Nd5 14.Bg5 Qc7 15.Na3 h6 16.Bd2 Rfc8 17.Rac1 b5!? 18.b3 Qb6 19.c4 bxc4 20.bxc4 Nb4 21.Qb1 Rab8 22.Rxe7 Nac6 23.Re4 Qa6 24.Re3 Qa4 25.Rb3 Nxa2 26.Rxb8 Rxb8 27.Qxa2 Nxd4 28.Nxd4 Bxd4 29.Rc2 Rb2 30.Qa1 Rxc2 31.Qxd4 Qxa3 32.h3 Qb2 0-1 Godena,M (2501)- Morozevich,A (2727)/ Warsaw 2013

11.h3 Bxf3 12.Qxf3 e5 13.dxe5 dxe5 14.Nd2

Twitchell starts heading for a c5 knight outpost right away. Also good was Be3.

14...h6

This is a move that signals black wants to play the plan of ...Kh7 and ...f5 with a pawn storm, and considering he has a much higher rating he probably thought this would be worth the risk of weakening his kingside so much. Objectively though, it is a bad idea. He should perhaps try to reduce pressure by ...Na5 and try to trade that bishop: [14...Na5 15.Ne4 Nxb3 16.axb3 and here, with the B on b3 gone, it is a lot less risky to play 16...f5 17.Nc5 e4 etc.]

15.Ne4 Kh7 16.Be3 f5 17.Nc5 e4 18.Qe2

So black followed through with his plan and the result is -- white is much better! All white's pieces are actively posted, and he has the two bishops. He threatens Nxb7 and Ne6, plus has the serious positional threat of pawn a2-a4-a5 etc., or even h4-h5, etc. Black's chances of attack on the kingside are vague at best. You can see further pawn pushes there are going to leave very serious weaknesses behind them.

18...Qc8 White now has to decide if ...f4 is a serious threat for black.

19.Rad1! Allowing the response Bd4 if black plays ...f4.

19...Re8

[19...f4 20.Bd4 The e4 pawn is now very weak... 20...Nxd4 21.cxd4 e3!? trying to sac the pawn for compensation. .. 22.fxe3 Re8 23.Qd3 Rxe3 24.Rxe3 fxe3 25.Qxe3 is just winning.]

20.Rd6!?

Intending an invasion at e6. It's also possible for white to just chip at black's shaky center with 20.f3 exf3 21.Qxf3 with a great game.

20...Be5 21.Re6 Rxe6 22.Bxe6 Qc7 23.f3?

Twitchell has played a fine game up until now, but this miss-timed move lands him in big trouble. Unlike the previous variation, black is ready to meet this with ...f4. Instead simply 23.Rd1 Rd8 24.Rxd8 Qxd8 25.Qd2 keeps an edge for white in the endgame.

23...f4 24.Bxf4

24.Bc1 e3 looks awful, so Twitchell bravely sacs a piece for two pawns to keep the game alive.

24...Bxf4 25.Nxe4

For the piece white has two pawns, active pieces, and black's king is slightly vulnerable (especially to checks along the seventh rank). Objectively this should not be enough. A piece is a piece. But in a practical game with time trouble coming up and pieces flying around, it is not easy to convert this for black. A similar situation occurred recently in the game Carlsen-Jones, Wijk aan Zee 2018. Carlsen blundered a piece in the opening, but had some vague compensation a lot like here. Jones made some second-best moves and suddenly he was losing! It happens. It's why it is better to sacrifice to avoid a passive defensive position.

25...Qe7 26.Bb3 Be5?

I think black should play 26...Bc7 with ideas of ...Qe5. White will soon have to play g2-g3 and this weakening will help black's pieces find threatening positions.

27.Qf2 Qf8 28.Qh4 (Cheapo threat: Ng5). 28...Qf4

Played on the principle that piece-up trades are good, but maybe stronger was 28...Kg7 with an eye toward keeping queens on for an attack.

29.Qxf4 Bxf4 30.Nc5 Rb8

The ending is not so clear as black perhaps hoped it would be, and with time trouble looming this position is starting to get messy. It's always amusing how, even with the queens off, a bunch of chess pieces always seem to manage to get tangled up in a swirling dogfight! That's exactly what happens here… watch how rapidly Twitchell gets an initiative going and soon manages to outplay his higher-rated opponent though down a piece.

31.Re6!

Introducing the idea of Nxb7 and Rxc6. If white get's a third pawn for the piece he will have no worries.

31...Ne5

Defending that threat, but now notice how awkwardly the bishop is protecting this

knight from in front, vulnerable to g3 ideas, etc. 32.Re7+ The rook has reached the seventh rank. All white's pieces are powerfully placed. It is not hard to imagine mating nets coming up if white has time for Nc5-e4-f6 etc.

32...Kh8 33.Kf2!

Already white already has lots of good choices: [33.Nxb7!? Nd3 34.Bc2 Nxb2 35.Bxg6 Unclear; 33.Ne4!? Nc6 34.Rf7 Be3+ 35.Kf1 Ne5 36.Re7 Nbd7 defends against Ne4ñf6, but just barely. White is at least equal here I'd say.] 33...Rd8 [33...Ng4+ with the idea of ...Bd6, is met by 34.Ke2!= Bd6 35.Rxb7 and black has stuff hanging everywhere.

34.Ne6!?

White could draw with 34.g3! Highlighting black's awkwardly placed pieces. 34...Rd2+ 35.Kf1 Bxg3 36.Ne4 Rxb2 37.Re8+ *(37.Nf6? Rf2+ 38.Kg1 Nxf3+)* 37...Kh7 38.Re7+ Kh8=

34...Nd3+

Black misses a complicated win: 34...Rd2+ 35.Kf1 Bg3 36.Re8+ Kh7 37.Re7+ Kg8! and amazingly white's attack comes to nothing here, which means black's attack will crash through. 38.Nf4+ Kf8 39.Rxe5 Bxf4 etc.

35.Ke2 Nc1+

See what I mean about a tangled dogfight!?

36.Kf1 Bg5 37.Rxb7 Rd7?

Black is not satisfied with a draw after 37...Rd2 38.Rb8+ Kh7 39.Rb7+ and decided to do something else, but it's a blunder.

38.Rb8+! Bd8 [Perhaps in time trouble he missed 38...Kh7? 39.Nf8+] 39.Rxd8+ Rxd8 40.Nxd8

Suddenly Kyle is up a bunch of pawns. He does a good job of pushing through the win by activating his king and using threats of piece trades to push black back.

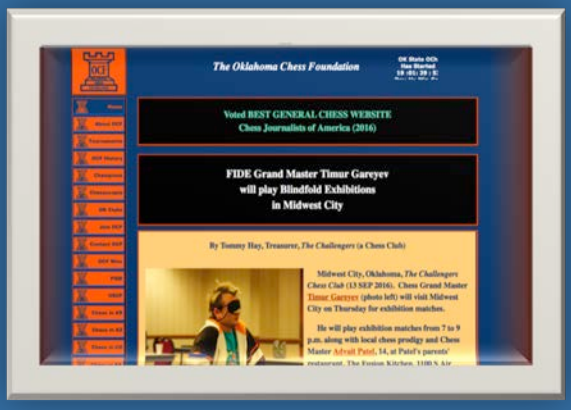
40...Nd3 41.Bc2 Nxb2 42.Bxg6 Nd5 43.c4 Ne3+ 44.Kf2 Nexc4 45.Nc6 a5 46.Bf7 Nd6 47.Bd5 Nd1+ 48.Kg3 a4 49.Kf4 Kg7 50.g4 Nc3 51.Ke5 Ne8 52.Nd4 Nf6 53.Bc4 Nd7+ 54.Kd6 Nb6 55.Be6 Kf6 56.Kc6 Ke5 57.Kxb6 Kxd4 58.f4 Ke4 59.f5 Ke5 60.h4 h5 61.gxh5 Nxa2 62.h6!

[62.Bxa2?? Kxf5 Draw, due to the "wrong rook pawn". It doesn't matter that you have two of them! You could have five of them and it's still a draw. You must be vigilant to the end and know your endgame stuff! 63.Bb1+ Kf6 64.h6 Kf7 Here it is worth noting that 65.Bh7 would actually win for white, were it not for black's a-pawn! 65...a3 66.Bb1 a2 67.Bxa2+ Kg6 draw.]

62...Kf6 63.Bxa2! 1-0

A very nice game by Kyle Twitchell!

Visit
www.ocfchess.org


The Oklahoma Chess Foundation
Voted BEST GENERAL CHESS WEBSITE
Chess Journalists of America (2016)
FIDE Grand Master Timur Gareyev
will play Blindfold Exhibitions
in Midwest City

Voted BEST GENERAL CHESS WEBSITE
Chess Journalists of America (2016)

Actively Managed by Jim Hollingsworth
Our Intrepid Texican Volunteer

Get
OCF Member Content like the OCM
Plus
- ✓ Breaking News
- ✓ Archived Chess Information
- ✓ Useful Chess Links

... and more

UPCOMING TOURNAMENTS

For More Tournament Info Visit the USCF Tournament Site:
www.uschess.org/tlas/upcoming.php

FEB 17-18 2018 — Oklahoma City Open — OKC, OK

5-SS; G/90+30. Wyndham Hotel (former Crowne Plaza) Oklahoma City, 2945 Northwest Expressway, OKC 73112, (405)848-4811, HR: $59/night. Two Sections: Open, and Reserve (U1700). EF: $40 if mailed by 2/7, $50 thereafter, FREE entry for Masters 2200+ (deducted from prizewinnings). Free OCF Memb. Prizes $$2350 (1st prize Gtd., the rest b/64). Open: $500(G)-250 U2100: 250-100, U1900: 250-100, Reserve (U1700): $300-150, U1400: 200-100, U1100/UNR: 150. More $$ if entries permit. Byes: One half-point bye Rds. 1-5 if commit before Sat 9PM. REG.: 9-9:45 Sat AM. Rounds: 10-2:30-7, 9-1:15. Entries to: Tom Braunlich, 7500 S. Birch, Broken Arrow, OK 74011. Inquiries: tom.braunlich@cox.net Web: www.ocfchess.org.

MAR 3, 2018 — FOUR STATES WINTER OPEN — Joplin, MO

4-SS, G/60 d5. Hilton Garden Inn, 2644 E. 32nd St., Joplin, MO 64804. 2 Sections, Open: $120-80, U1600 60, U1400: $60-40. 4.0 Bonus: $20. Prizes: b/30 EF: $30 by 3/2, $40 at door. Scholastic (rating only) $15 by 3/2, $25 at door. MCA mem required, OSA Reg.: 8-9. Rounds: 9:30-11:45-2:30-4:45. Byes: One 1/2-point bye if requ before rd 2 Ent: martin.stahl@joplinchess.org with cash onsite, paypal.me/joplinchess or mailed to Joplin Chess Club, 2609 New Hampshire, Joplin, MO 64804. Checks payable to Martin Stahl. Information: joplinchess.org, martin.stahl@joplinchess.org, 417-483-1554.

MAR 23-25, 2018 — 22nd MID-AMERICA OPEN — St. Louis, MO

5-SS, 40/100, SD/30d10 (2-day option). Clayton Plaza Hotel St. Louis-Clayton, 7750 Carondelet Ave, St. Louis, MO (I-64 W/US 40-W, Exit 32B, 1.2 miles north on Hanley Rd). Prizes $20,000 (G) in six sections. MORE INFO: http://www.uschess.org/tlas/upcoming.php?STATE=MO Questions: DirectorAtChess.US, chesstour.com, chesstour.info,

MAR 24-25, 2018 — ARKANSAS OPEN — **Fayetteville, AR**

5-SS, G/90,+30. Mt. Sequoyah Rereat Center, 150 N. Skyline Dr, Fayetteville, AR. (479)443-4531. Cottage cabins available. **EF**: Open $40 by 3/23; $50 at site; Reserve (U1600): $30 by 3/23; $35 at site. **$$Prizes** (b/40): Open: $225-125; U1800 $125; Reserve: $150-75: U1400: $100; U1000: $50, Upset $50. **Info**: cl_kline@sbcglobal.net (479)595-5720

APR 21, 2018 — RRSO XVI (Red River Shootout) — Davis, OK

"The annual team match between the most fanatical chess players in Oklahoma and Texas!" Team members will play 2 games with the same opponent. An effort is made to pair players of about the same rating. Rounds: 10:00am and 1:00pm, Time Control G/60;+30, EF: $5 at door. Prizes: Bragging rights. Location: Treasure Valley Casino, I-35 and Hwy 7 (Exit 55 off I-35), Davis, OK (580) 369-3223. Hotel Rooms available. Handicap accessible. Free WiFi. Eligibility: Open to OK and TX players who are current USCF members. Team Roster Selection: To get on the team you must register early with your state team captain by April 1, 2018. (See contact info below). Captains will work with the Chief TD to create the matchups and announce the pairings soon after the April 1 deadline. Players not on the team may come and play a side tournament, the Murray County Championship, with each other and be available as a sub. Your best chance to get on the team is to register early.

OK CAPTAIN: Joe Veal culjoe2012@yahoo.com
TX CAPTAIN: Chris Wood chris@handsomeweb.com
TD: Jim Hollingsworth: texaschessteam@yahoo.com
MORE INFO: http://www.ocfchess.org/ocf_tournaments.html

May 19-20, 2018 — 2nd FRANK K BERRY MEMORIAL — Tulsa, OK

5-SS, G?90;+30, Wyndham Hotel Tulsa, 41st and Garnett.
Blndfold Chess Exhibition by GM Timur Gareyev tentatively scheduled for the Friday night before, May 18, 6:00pm

Review by IM John Donaldson

"e3 Poison" by Alex Smith

(392 pages, figurine algebraic, paperback, $29.95)

Swedish Grandmaster Axel Smith's *e3 Poison* is one of the more original opening books to be published this century. Its author aims at no less than the creation of an entire opening repertoire based on the move e3. White aims at a setup (Nf3, e3, Be2, d4, c4 and Nc3) which can reach similar positions whether one opens 1.c4, 1.d4, 1.Nf3 or 1.e3.

Unlike most Quality Chess opening books, where the most challenging lines are examined, *e3 Poison* adopts a different approach. As Smith explains in the introduction, in the age of intensive computer preparation his aim, ala Magnus Carlsen, is to reach interesting middle game positions where he has confidence his greater understanding will pay dividends.

Smith's repertoire proves to be a reasonable choice against those who play the Grunfeld exclusively. After 1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.e3 0-0 5.Be2 d5 6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.e4 Nb6 8.0-0 Nc6 9.d5 Ne5 10.Nc3 e6 11.Bf4 Nxf3+ 12.Bxf3 exd5 13.cxd5 g5! 14.Bc1 (14.Bg3 f5!) leads to unbalance play.

Heading for a Benoni, with 5…c5 after 1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.e3 0-0 5.Be2, makes a lot of sense for the second player. After 6.d5 Black will soon be in well-known positions a tempo up – a good deal if one is familiar with this opening, but not something that precludes White from getting a rich middlegame.

Possibly the most double-edged part of the repertoire appears when Black adopts a King's Indian setup. After 1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.e3 0-0 5.Be2 d6 6.Nc3 Nbd7 7.0-0 e5 we have a position that more commonly arises (with colors reversed) from the Closed French and is associated with many famous Bobby Fischer brilliancies. Fischer faced the line Smith suggests in his game with Bisguier from the 1963 Western Open played in Bay City, Michigan.

It's not always possible to adopt Smith's system as he himself admits. After 1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 a6, White can play 3.c4, but it is outside the system. Unfortunately the system move 3.e3 doesn't lead to anything, but 3.Bf4 makes 2…a6 looks like a time waster.

A bigger issue is what to do after 1.d4 g6. Smith writes on page 59 that after 1.d4 g6 2.Nf3 Bg7 3.c4 d6 4.Nc3 Nd7 5.e3 e5 6.Be2 Ne7 7. 0-0 0-0, "I see no good moves for White while Black plays …h6 and …f5. It's hard to argue for e2-e3 in the Averbakh." He then suggests White meet 1.d4 g6 with 2.e4 Bg7 3.Nf3 d6 4.Bc4 Nf6 5.Qe2, the basic ideas of which can be mastered in a minute according to Smith. This differs from a normal Pirc in that White has not had to commit his queen knight, which might have better prospects on d2 than c3 depending on how the game develops.

This begs the question of what to do if Black varies the move order. On 1.d4 g6 2.e4 d6 3.Nf3 Nf6 forces 4.Nc3, but 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Qe2 allows White to stick with what he likes. The transpositional problems don't come from 1…g6, but 1…d6, when 2…Nf6 is going to force White out of his system, but learning a standard line against the Pirc is not such a big deal.

e3 Poison will prove most useful for players 2200 on up with can handle the many transpositions and different middlegame pawn structures that arise.